

THE SECOND ANNUAL EXHIBIT OF THE NEW YORK ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The second annual exhibit of the New York Entomological Society was held in the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, from May 16th through June 16th, 1950. It was arranged in the 77th Street Foyer of the Museum and represented material from twenty-three contributors.

As the visitor entered the Foyer his attention was commanded by a five-panel display explaining the newly recognized disease RICKETTSIALPOX. This material was shown for the first time in New York City by courtesy of the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Maryland and emphasized the fact that Rickettsialpox is an arthropod-borne disease.

Immediately behind these panels were three cases of exhibits designed by Miss Alice Gray. In the first case INSECT PAPER-DOLLS depicted greatly enlarged and simplified insect figures of colored paper. These "Insect Dolls," including spider beetles, dermestids, and differentiating characteristics of ants and termites, were used recently as teaching aids during a pest control conference at the Museum. Some excellent paintings of Saturnid moths by Marjorie Statham were also in this case.

The second case contained material prepared by Dr. Mont Cazier and dealt with the distribution, subspeciation, and hybridization of the tiger beetle, *Cicindela scutellaris*. Water-color paintings, illustrating hybrids between the various species, were prepared by Miss Statham. A necktie with a tiger beetle motif, designed by Miss Gray, completed the case.

The last case of this group contained entomological collecting, spreading, and mounting equipment. Pamphlets written by Miss Gray on the various aspects of insect collection techniques formed an integral part of the case material.

The photographs, paintings, charts, and drawings of the exhibit were arranged on ten Museum Beneker blocks and two cases around the far wall of the Foyer. One case showed the instruments used by Mr. A. T. Gaul in his investigations of hornet activities. These instruments included a frequency meter which is used with a microphone at the hornet nest entrance

to measure wing vibration rate, an electronic counter to automatically count the hornets entering and leaving the nest, and an amplifier unit built into the counter which relays the hornet's wing vibrations to the recording machine for later analysis. The other case was used to display the books and articles written by the following Society members: L. W. Clausen, W. S. Creighton, C. H. Curran, A. T. Gaul, W. J. Gertsch, T. C. Schneirla, H. F. Schwarz, R. B. Swain, and E. W. Teale.

The following is a list of the photographs, paintings, charts, and drawings:

By G. Becker—sixteen photographs showing some of the activities of the inspectors and some of the pests which are intercepted on material coming through the Hoboken, N. J., Inspection House of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine;

By J. Cody—six water-color paintings of moths and butterflies;

By J. Forbes, J. Tafuri, and R. Vishniac—photographs of insect anatomy;

By W. J. Gertsch—black and white plates of spider drawings and the printed plate for comparison;

By H. R. Hagan—six photographs and drawings illustrating the anatomy of viviparous insects;

By A. B. Klots—seven photographs which show various phases of research projects dealing with aircraft spraying of DDT and other insecticides sponsored by the U. S. Army during 1945-46;

By C. E. Olsen—three photographs of a plastic model of a house-fly made by him for the Boston Museum of Science;

By C. Pomerantz—a group of photographs and articles showing some of the steps taken by Dr. Jellison, Dr. Heubner, and Mr. Pomerantz in running down the causative agent and the vector of the Rickettsialpox disease epidemic in Queens, New York City, during the summer of 1946;

By T. C. Schneirla—photographs of Army ants which appeared in a recent issue of LIFE magazine;

By R. B. Swain—two large wall charts, one depicting the life history of ants and the other the life history of the honey bee, and a series of six tempera and water-color paintings used to

illustrate his book THE INSECT GUIDE. These paintings and charts were executed by SuZan N. Swain;

By E. W. Teale—ten photographic studies of insects;

By R. Vishniac—six photographs of insects and insect anatomy, two of which were taken with polarized light.

Dr. Lucy W. Clausen was in charge of receiving the material and planning the exhibit. She was ably assisted by Messrs. A. Roensch, A. T. Gaul, J. Cody, and Doctors R. Vishniac and R. B. Swain. The large amount of fine material submitted by members and the very fine arrangement achieved by the committee resulted in an exhibit which was highly praised by Society members, visitors, and various Museum personnel.—J. FORBES.

CRÈVECOEUR'S FIREFLIES

In the Everyman's Library edition of "Letters From an American Farmer" by J. Hector St. John de Crèvecoeur, mention is made in the "Notes," of Crèvecoeur's three volume work "Voyage dans la Haute Pennsylvanie (sic) et dans l'Etat de New York," that was published in Paris in 1801, in which Crèvecoeur gives the following "astonishing information" about *mouches luisantes*, or fireflies. "They much resemble bees in color and size: like scarabs, they have two pairs of wings . . . when they fly, they develop a third set whence issue rays of light, which give to the lower and posterior part of their bodies the appearance of a lighted coal. . . . They do no harm and never rise to more than six feet above the ground. One can catch them easily and make use of them as a reading light." Warren Barton Blake who wrote the Introduction and probably the "Notes," in the Everyman's edition, believed that such "astonishing information" deserved perpetuation.

I am sure that, even as early as 1801, in Paris, no such belief was ever held by French entomologists, as to the source of the fire fly's light.—H. B. W.